

NOTES & NEWS

Some Nomenclatural Problems
in Sacoglossa

BY

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PROBLEMS BEGIN WITH THE NAME to be adopted for this opisthobranch gastropod order. Priority would require Monostichoglossata or Stichoglossata Pagenstecher, 1874 (accepted by very few later authors); but priority does not apply to ranks higher than that of superfamily. In 1876 von Ihering proposed Sacoglossa and synonymized under it Bergh's manuscript name Ascoglossa. This action, as well as the two-to-one preference for Sacoglossa over Ascoglossa by subsequent authors, justifies continued usage of it.

The non-shelled sacoglossan forms have been grouped into a superfamily Elysiacea, based on the family Elysiidae and the genus *Elysia* Risso, 1818, oldest generic name in this complex. However, the family-group name Plakobranchidae Gray, 1840 (erroneously spelled Placobranchidae by him), has priority over Elysiidae H. & A. Adams, 1854; priority in family-group names is based on the date of proposal of the family, not on the oldest genus. Thus the superfamily name Plakobranchacea should replace Elysiacea – unless someone feels strongly enough that Elysiacea should be retained to submit a petition to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for suspension of the Rules.

In the family Caliphyllidae, the genus *Polybranchia* Pease, 1860, is valid and not, as often assumed, preoccupied by Latreille, 1825, a usage that proves to be for a family-group taxon. The three replacement names *Lobifera* Pease, 1860, *Phyllobranchillus* Pruvot-Fol, 1933, and *Polyphylla* Pruvot-Fol, 1954 (an accidental misspelling that is doubly invalid by being preoccupied), are unnecessary.

The generic name *Hermaeina* Trinchese, 1874, in the family Hermaeidae falls as a synonym of the earlier *Aplysiopsis* Deshayes, 1864. The latter name must be accepted however inappropriate it may seem to be (surely no sacoglossan looks like an *Aplysia*!), for Deshayes' illustration of his type species is unmistakable. Another well-known

generic name, *Placida* Trinchese, 1876, also falls as a synonym. The earlier taxon, *Laura* Trinchese, 1872, has been misunderstood. Although regularly cited in synonymy by authors, it was either considered a homonym of *Lauria* Gray, 1840, or a *nomen nudum* and given a wrong date. Trinchese in 1872 validly described *Laura* but without citing any species by name. He later described and assigned to *Laura* 3 species, one of which, *L. viridis* Trinchese, 1874, was designated as type by Thompson in 1973. A second, *L. tardy* Trinchese, 1874, is the type species of *Placida* and is generic.

The genus *Olea* Kjerschow-Agersborg, 1923, was described from the Puget Sound area. Because the radula is wholly absent in the adult, *Olea* was made type of a family, the Oleidae, by Thiele, 1931. Normally, the Sacoglossa are herbivorous, feeding on the sap of green algae, but *Olea* devours instead the egg masses of cephalaspidean opisthobranchs, as Sandra Crane has shown (*The Veliger* 14 (1): 57-59, July, 1971). Robert Burn, an opisthobranch specialist, suggests (*in litt.*) that *Olea* is not unique in this, for carnivorous habits have developed, at least sporadically, in certain other sacoglossans, all in the family Hermaeidae. As he points out, *Olea* is morphologically close to several genera in the Hermaeidae, differing mainly in that the radula is vestigial, and he advises that it should be ranked as a member of this family rather than in a family by itself.

The Ovulidae:
Replacement Names
for Four Ovulid Homonyms

BY

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IT IS REGRETTEED that in a recent paper (CATE, 1973), there occurred four homonyms among 26 designated new generic names; their replacement is proposed herein. In order to avoid any more confusion in this matter than necessary, the stems of the replacement names will remain the same but with the addition of a suffix ending. They are as follows:

Galeravolva Cate, nom. nov.

(*Pro Galera* Cate, 1973. *The Veliger* 15 (Supplement): p. 5. Mollusca: Gastropoda, family Ovuli-